



**MINUTES
of the
THREE-HUNDRED-SIXTY-NINTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
January 16, 2017
Santa Fe**

The three-hundred-sixty-ninth meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order on Monday, January 16, 2017, at 10:10 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol by Representative Don L. Tripp, co-chair.

Present

Sen. Mary Kay Papen, Co-Chair
Rep. Don L. Tripp, Co-Chair
Rep. Alonzo Baldonado
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Rep. Brian Egolf
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Nate Gentry
Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
Sen. Stuart Ingle
Sen. William H. Payne
Sen. Clemente Sanchez
Sen. William E. Sharer
Sen. John Arthur Smith
Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton

Special Advisory Members Present

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. Pete Campos
Sen. Ron Griggs
Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. Cisco McSorley
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.
Rep. Carl Trujillo
Rep. Jim R. Trujillo

Absent

Sen. Michael S. Sanchez

Special Advisory Members Absent

Rep. Gail Chasey
Sen. Lee S. Cotter
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto
Rep. Rick Little
Rep. James Roger Madalena
Sen. Mark Moores
Sen. George K. Munoz
Rep. Andy Nunez
Rep. Dennis J. Roch
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero

Staff

Raúl E. Burciaga, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Amy Chavez-Romero, Assistant Director for Drafting, LCS
Kathy Pacheco-Dofflemeyer, Assistant Director for Administration, LCS
John Yaeger, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, LCS
Jeret Fleetwood, Researcher, LCS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

Capitol Security

Major Robert Thorton, New Mexico State Police, provided the council with an overview of session security. He explained that the state police detail assigned to the capitol on a daily basis during session consists of one lieutenant, two sergeants, 10 officers and necessary dispatchers. Major Thorton said that the session security detail is prepared for anything that might come up during the session, noting that the security detail had just completed a walk-through of the building.

Members of the council thanked Major Thorton, and it was noted that officers come from all areas of the state and have to leave their homes to help keep the capitol safe.

Fiscal Year 2016 Audits

Mr. Burciaga explained that annual audits are conducted on the seven accounts containing legislative funds. He noted that two firms conducted the audits for fiscal year 2016 and that the results were good.

In response to a question, Mr. Burciaga explained that one firm audits three accounts and the other firm audits the other four, and the firms do not see or question the work of each other. He went on to explain that the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore preside over the exit conferences, after which the results of the audits become public.

In response to another question, Mr. Burciaga discussed qualified versus unqualified audits, noting that the legislative audits are unqualified, meaning that no modifications or parameters are placed on the auditors. He also noted that there were no material findings by the auditors.

Request for Use of Chambers

Mr. Burciaga noted that a National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April, and the committee has requested use of the chambers.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council authorized use of the chambers for the NCSL Executive Committee in April.

Staff Reports

Mr. Burciaga noted that the Capitol Security Subcommittee met twice during the 2016 interim and discussed potential security changes with LCS staff. He explained that the subcommittee met both in open session and in executive session to discuss how to keep the capitol open, accessible and secure.

Mr. Burciaga noted that the subcommittee voted on adding more robust security barriers in some areas of the building, such as key card access to various doors. He said that no bill had been brought forth by the subcommittee but that the subcommittee asked that the council support the inclusion of additional funds in the feed bill for security improvements.

In response to a question, Mr. Burciaga explained that the doors leading from the first floor parking garage into the building do not require key card access.

In response to another question, Mr. Burciaga explained that appropriations for items like building and security improvements are traditionally included in House Bill 2, as opposed to using legislative cash balances or including them in the feed bill.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council voted to support funding for security improvements to the capitol.

Speaker Tripp noted that this would be his last legislative meeting. He said that it had been an honor to serve in the New Mexico Legislature.

There being no further business, the council adjourned at 11:30 a.m.